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DISASTER REDUCTION AND RELIEF

Report of the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee

I. DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION (sub-item (c))

1. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee considered the question of disaster relief coordination (agenda item 16 (c)) at its 1st to 5th, 8th, 10th, 12th and 13th meetings, from 8 to 11 and 16 to 19 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/221;

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (E/1991/121).

2. At the 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 16 (c) in conjunction with items 12, 15, 17 and 18.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 8 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the representative of the Joint Inspection Unit.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

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5. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the representative of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an oral report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan concerning the implementation of the emergency and relief operations in that country, including Operation Lifeline Sudan. An oral report was also made by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia.

7. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Somalia and the Bahamas and the observers for the Sudan and Ethiopia. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization also made a statement.

8. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 July, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Peru, Chile, Pakistan and Algeria and the observers for Australia and Djibouti.

9. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization made statements. The observer for the International Organization for Migration made a statement. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category II.

10. At the 4th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, China, Brazil, Austria, the United States of America, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Morocco and the observers for Switzerland, Cuba and Egypt.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and the observers for Yemen and Senegal.

12. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee summarized the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile proposed that the Chairman's summary be annexed to the report of the Council submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

14. Statements in support of that proposal were made by the representatives of Brazil, Somalia and the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) and the observer for Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77).

15. The Committee then decided to recommend to the Council that the text of the Chairman's summary of the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18 be annexed to the report of the Council submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (for the text of the decision, see the report of the Committee on item 18 (E/1991/139), para. 22, draft decision I).

## II. FIGHT AGAINST THE SCREW-WORM INFESTATION (sub-item (a))

## INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (sub-item (b))

16. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee considered the questions of the fight against the screw-worm infestation (agenda item 16 (a)) and the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (agenda item 16 (b)) at its 14th, 15th and 17th meetings, on 19, 22 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it (E/1991/62);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (E/1991/63);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note by the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it (E/1991/113).

17. At the 14th meeting, on 19 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Algeria and the observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Fight against the screw-worm infestation

19. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on behalf of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 1/ and Senegal 1/ (on behalf of the African States), introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.9) entitled "Fight against the screw-worm infestation".

20. At the 17th meeting, on 24 July, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 22 below, draft resolution).

Implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

21. At the 17th meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (E/1991/63) (see para. 23 below, draft decision).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION) COMMITTEE

22. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Fight against the screw-worm infestation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/61 of 26 July 1990, in which, inter alia, it recognized the potential devastating effects of the screw-worm infestation on people, livestock and wildlife and the adverse socio-economic consequences thereof,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/207 of 21 December 1990, in which, inter alia, the General Assembly urged the international community to give full support to action to eradicate the screw-worm fly, particularly in Africa, and welcomed the support already provided by donors to the collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the eradication programme,

Noting with satisfaction the gratifying results of the pilot programme in virtually eradicating the screw-worm menace in the target area and restricting its spread into new areas,

Noting that the large-scale programme for the eradication of the screw-worm fly from North Africa, executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme, the affected countries and other donors, is in an advanced stage as evidenced by the confinement of the parasite to the originally infested zone and the currently low number of cases within this area,

Noting also that the objectives of the screw-worm eradication programme are to eliminate economic losses in the livestock sector, to remove an immense threat to the bio-diversity of the continent and to reduce the potential for

human suffering through the use of an environmentally sound and sustainable method, namely the Sterile Insect Technique, to eradicate the screw-worm,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2/ and the note by the International Fund for Agricultural Development; 3/

2. Welcomes the prompt responses by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in initiating the regional pilot biological control programme for the New World Screw-worm in North Africa and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in establishing the Screw-worm Emergency Centre for North Africa for the execution of the pilot and subsequent programmes, the technical support extended by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the financial support extended by the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved thus far through the eradication programme;

4. Expresses appreciation to the Governments concerned as well as to the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Fund for International Development of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries for their financial support for the full-scale eradication phase;

5. Requests the concerned Governments and organizations to continue to monitor the situation closely and to take appropriate further measures to bring about the complete eradication of the screw-worm in Africa;

6. Urges funding agencies and the donor community to continue to support the eradication programme to ensure its successful completion;

7. Commends this joint effort against the screw-worm as an effective demonstration of the potential of multilateral cooperation to meet a common global environmental challenge;

8. Invites the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 an up-to-date report on the screw-worm eradication programme.

23. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa. 4/

## Notes

1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2/ E/1991/62, annex.

3/ E/1991/113, annex.

4/ E/1991/63.

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